

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
----- 079043

O R 161100 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9376
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 956

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, IR, CE
SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA: PROGRAM IN SRI LANKA

HONG KONG FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

REF: COLOMBO 923 AND 953

1. FUNERAL SERVICES FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER DUDLEY SENANAYAKE WILL TAKE PLACE SATURDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 21. PRIME MINISTER HAS DIRECTED THAT FLAGS BE FLOWN AT HALF STAFF THAT DAY. COMMITTEE HEADED BY J. R. JAYEWARDENE, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, AND INCLUDING DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT BODY WILL LIE IN STATE AT NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY FROM APRIL 18 TO 21. AT 1:30 PM APRIL 21 CORTEGE WILL PROCEED ON FOOT FROM NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY TO INDEPENDENCE SQUARE (A THREE- MILE JOURNEY), WHERE CREMATION WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER ORATIONS BY PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE, J. R. JAYEWARDENE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE BUDDHIST ORDERS, MAYOR OF COLOMBO, AND THREE OTHER SPEAKERS. WE ESTIMATE CEREMONIES WILL LAST AT LEAST UNTIL 6 PM. AMB VAN HOLLEN WILL BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND FUNERAL.

2. BODY IS NOW ON VIEW AT LATE SENANAYAKES HOME, AND LONG, ORDERLY LINES THREE ABREAST STRETCHING TWO MILES ARE WAITING ROUND THE CLOCK TO PAY LAST RESPECTS. CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FROM
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QUEEN ELIZABETH TO DUDLEYS BROTHER ROBERT ALREADY PUBLISHED,
ALONG WITH OTHERS FROM OFFICIALS OF LESSER RANK.

3. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO ASCERTAUE GSL WISHES CONCERNING DEPUTY
SECRETARYS VISIT IN LIGHT CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES BUT FIND IT
HAS NOT YET FOCUSED ON MATTER. SITUATION COMPLICATED BY
CURRENT SIX- DAY OFFICIAL HOLIDAY PERIOD WHICH MEANS GOVT
NOT OPEN FOR NORMAL BUSINESS TILL APRIL 18. TENTATIVE REPEAT
TENTATIVE WORKING- LEVEL READING FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THIS
POINT IS THAT MDFA CONSIDERS VISIT STILL ON BUT SOME ADJUSTMENT
IN TIMING OF MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER WILL CLEARLY HAVE
TO BE MADE. WE SHALL REPORT DEFINITELY AS SOON AS WE CAN.
VAN HOLLEN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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